GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4133
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
PROMOTION OF INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Systems of Medicine viz. Ayurveda,Unani and Sidha are gaining popularity in western countries and more people are attracted to them because of the side effects and shortcomings of the modern system of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any step to promote the Indian System of Medicines ;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to promote new hospitals/dispensaries /clinics based on the Indian systems of medicines by giving them fiscal incentives; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Ayurveda has been gaining popularity in some parts of the world including in the Western countries and requests have been received in the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) for deputation of experts for teaching Ayurveda. One Ayurveda expert has been deputed for giving exposure to medical students of university of Connecticut in USA. Reports from certain non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in UK, Germany, Hungary etc. are also showing that the demand for Ayurveda as an alternative system of healing is picking up.

(c) & (d): In order to promote the Indian Systems of Medicine, Government have introduced a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Financial assistance is given under these schemes for strengthening of educational infrastructure, promotion of research activities, cultivation of medicinal plants, upgradation of educational facilities, strengthening of Drugs Testing Laboratories and Pharmacies, opening of ISM&H wings in the district hospitals, speciality clinics/polyclinics, supply of essential ISM&H drugs, etc.

(e) & (f): Primary health being a State subject under the Constitution, it is for the State Governments to establish hospitals, dispensaries and clinics of Indian Systems of Medicine. The Central Government provides financial support to the State Govts. for supply of essential drugs to the dispensaries of Indian Systems of Medicine located in the remote and backward areas. Provisions are also there to establish new dispensaries of Indian Systems of medicine under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).